

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA BOCELLI

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the remarkable achievements of singer, writer, and producer Andrea Bocelli.

Growing up on his family vineyard in Lajatico, Tuscany, Mr. Bocelli displayed a talent for music from an early age. Andrea developed a passion for opera recordings and dreamed of following in the footsteps of celebrated Italian tenors. A graduate of the University of Pisa, Mr. Bocelli practiced as a state appointed defense attorney for a short time before leaving behind a legal career to pursue his musical dream.

The best-selling classical soloist of all time, Mr. Bocelli has experienced unprecedented international success. He has staged concerts at the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids in Egypt, and the Statue of Liberty. Andrea has performed at Olympic closing ceremonies and over the devastation of Ground Zero. He has sung for kings, queens, princes, premiers, prime ministers, presidents, and Popes. The recipient of numerous awards, Mr. Bocelli has been globally recognized for his achievements in music and for his philanthropic efforts.

Andrea Bocelli has used his talents and stardom to bless many lives. Partnering with worthy charities like The Vision of Children Foundation, an organization committed to the eradication of hereditary childhood blindness, Mr. Bocelli has raised millions of dollars to help children all over the world. Funds raised by his benefit concerts have gone towards research to improve the lives of the visually impaired and aid the families of children who require organ transplants.

Mr. Speaker, whether influencing lives with his musical talents or inspiring countless individuals to overcome adversity, Andrea Bocelli is honored and admired for his many accomplishments. We recognize and commend him today for his extraordinary dedication and service.

HONORING CHICAGO ASTRONAUT
JOAN HIGGINBOTHAM**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Astronaut Joan Higginbotham. Higginbotham is a member of the crew on the Space Shuttle Discovery that is scheduled to launch tonight from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Additionally, she is a fellow Chicagoan, and I wish her the best of luck as she prepares for her first mission, STS 116.

Higginbotham graduated from Chicago's Whitney Young High School in 1982, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1987. She will be the third African-American woman aboard a NASA mission, and she and her fellow astronaut Robert Curbeam will make history this week on STS 116, the first Space Shuttle mission with two African-American astronauts.

Higginbotham previously worked as a payload engineer at the John F. Kennedy Space Center while also earning two master's degrees from the Florida Institute of Technology.

As a Mission Specialist on board Discovery, Higginbotham's responsibilities will include a complete rewiring of the International Space Station's power supply. She will also have the responsibility of operating the robotic arm to deploy several satellites and to direct payload transfers.

Higginbotham will be joined by mission commander Mark Polansky, as well as Robert Curbeam, Sunita Williams, Nicholas Patrick, William Oefelein, and Christer Fuglesang from the European Space Agency, who is the first Swedish astronaut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing my fellow Chicagoan as well as her fellow astronauts, and to wish them all the best on their launch tonight and their 12-day mission.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROLE
MANCHESTER PILLAY**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit for the RECORD the following tribute that appeared in the Winsted Journal on October 27, 2006. Mrs. Pillay began her career in fashion at Vogue, later becoming fabric editor at Glamour, and fashion director at Seventeen and Elle. Mrs. Pillay was also the author of French Tea and Tea in the East. I'm honored to submit this for the RECORD. My heart goes out to her entire family.

[From the Winsted Journal, Oct. 27, 2006]

CAROLE MANCHESTER PILLAY

WINSTED—Carole Manchester Pillay, author of two distinctive books on the preparation and drinking of tea and a former editor of leading women's magazines, died Oct. 21, 2006, in Manhattan. She lived in Manhattan and Winsted and was the wife of Shunna Pillay.

Mrs. Pillay started her fashion career with Vogue and later became the fabric editor for Glamour and then fashion director at Seventeen and Elle magazines. Her articles on fashion, the decorative arts and tea appeared frequently in national magazines.

Her two books are "French Tea" (Hearst Books, 1993) and "Tea in the East" (Hearst Books, 1996). The latter publication took her on journeys throughout Asia, where she met and interviewed "staunch devotees of tea—planters, pluckers, brokers, blenders, producers, promoters, and tea lovers."

She wrote that "there were many trying times rummaging through the obscure domains of tea, but at journey's end I look back on the adversities as fond adventures." More recently, she authored the book for the forthcoming musical, "Pansy."

Her friends regarded her as possessing an exquisite aesthetic sense, a wonderful joie de vivre, an indomitable spirit and a keen commitment to social justice. In addition to her husband of 33 years, Mrs. Pillay is survived by a brother, Dudley Manchester of West Hartford; a sister, Ann Shubert of Acton, Mass.; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a sister, Lois.

There will be a private service in late spring.

HONORING DR. JOHN CONDON, RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 SACRED HEART MEDICAL CENTER SISTER PETER CLAVER AWARD

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. John Condon, recipient of the 2006 Sacred Heart Medical Center's Sister Peter Claver Award. In receiving this award, Dr. Condon joins the ranks of many like himself who have gone out of their way to help and serve others, doing it humbly and without seeking recognition.

The Sister Peter Claver Award is given in honor of its namesake each year. Sister Peter Claver gave nearly thirty years of her life to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane, Washington. She led this institution by her example of charity, service, and integrity. Today, Dr. John Condon exemplifies the mission and message of Sister Peter Claver.

Dr. Condon has maintained a pediatric dentistry practice in Spokane for more than 40 years. Because the community in which he works and serves is a rural one, Dr. Condon travels throughout the community, making a special effort to reach those who would not normally have access to such quality dental care. Dr. Condon has also devoted much of his time to providing dental care to underprivileged children and adults with mental and physical challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Dr. Condon for his compassionate service to the citizens of Eastern Washington. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. John Condon on receiving the "Sister Peter Claver Award" and in thanking him.

IN HONOR OF SISTER JULIE HYER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Julie Hyer, O.P., whose uncommon mixture of faith, benevolence and business savvy has seen the Dominican Hospital of Santa Cruz through twenty-two years of exceptional service and growth.

As president and CEO of Dominican Hospital, Sister Julie sat at the helm of Santa Cruz County's largest health care facility. With 1,700 employees, 500 doctors on staff and more than 500 volunteers—to say nothing of the hundreds of patients Dominican Hospital serves daily in its 369 beds—Sister Julie has overseen a considerable operation and done so without compromising individualized care and treatment.

Under Sister Julie's leadership, Dominican Hospital has implemented numerous programs and services which address the particular needs of our community; from the Infant Hearing Assessment program, to Occupational Rehabilitation, to the ShareCare Health Plan for Older Adults, Sister Julie has ensured that Dominican Hospital is prepared to see patients through every stage of their lives. Other services, such as Dominican's Tattoo Removal